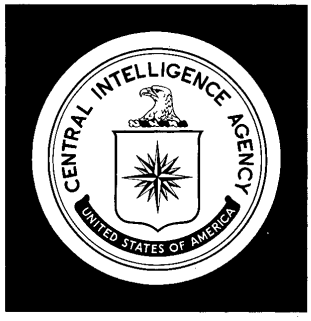
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5



The President's Daily Brief

5 April 1972

50

~~*Top Secret*~~

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The battle in northern South Vietnam has stabilized for the moment along the Cua Viet River, but farther south there are new enemy attacks. *(Page 1)*

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

President Lon Nol's political moves have mollified unruly Cambodian students, but at the price of alienating former prime minister Sirik Matak. *(Page 4)*

[redacted] 25X1

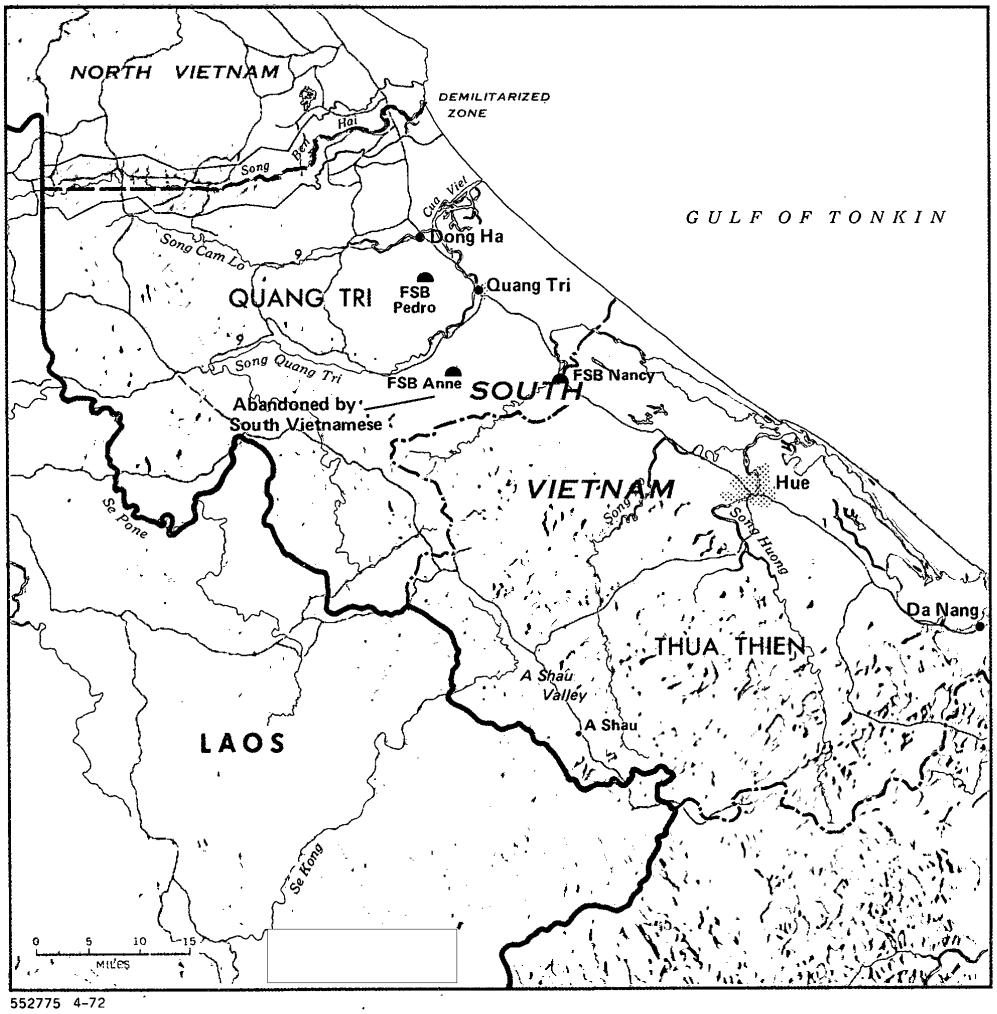
[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5



552775 4-72

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

SOUTH VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese continue to shell the South Vietnamese strongpoints south of the DMZ at Dong Ha, Quang Tri, and Fire Support Base Pedro. South Vietnamese reinforcements are beginning to arrive and are helping to maintain a defensive line roughly along the Cua Viet River. The seasoned reinforcements may have a stabilizing influence on the South Vietnamese 3rd Division, the newest of the government's divisions, which has borne the brunt of the fighting thus far. The Communists have been taking advantage of bad weather to ship large quantities of supplies south on Route 1 through the DMZ, but clouds are lifting today allowing more allied interdiction from the air.

The loss of Fire Base Anne yesterday has opened a corridor which the North Vietnamese may use to by-pass Quang Tri city and to move farther south toward Hue. Two North Vietnamese regiments are already planning attacks on Fire Base Nancy and other outposts between Quang Tri city and Hue, according to intercepted messages. Prisoners, and a map taken from the body of a North Vietnamese officer, indicate that the taking of Quang Tri and Hue cities are two goals of the current campaign. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the Communists hope to cut off both 25X1
Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces from the south and destroy South Vietnamese forces remaining there.

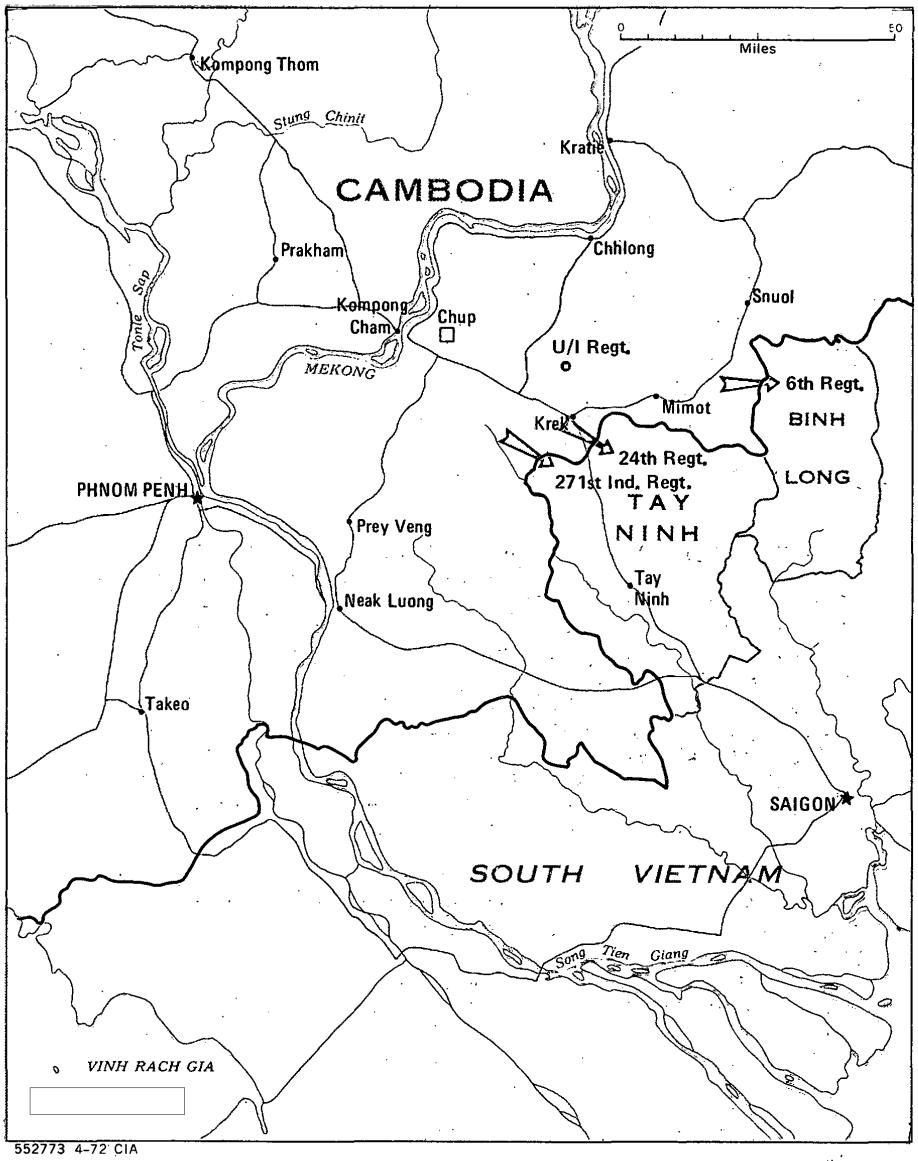
Farther south, two additional Communist regiments have moved from Cambodia into Tay Ninh Province. Moreover, the enemy's three-division force in Cambodia north of Tay Ninh Province may be augmented with another, as yet unidentified North Vietnamese division. Communications from this unit have been noted in Laos over the past few months, but radio direction finding now shows one of its regiments in eastern Cambodia opposite Tay Ninh Province.

Preliminary reports indicate that An Loc, the capital of Binh Long Province, and nearby Loc Ninh town are being assaulted by enemy ground forces today. An airstrip east of An Loc is said to be under enemy control, and the main route from Saigon to the An Loc - Loc Ninh area is believed to be blocked.

(continued)

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5



552773 4-72 CIA

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

* * *

25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1
25X1

25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

VIETNAM

While North Vietnamese propagandists portray the current offensive in standard terms as a "people's war," Communist documents and briefings suggest there has been a major change in Hanoi's approach to the struggle.

Communist briefings in late March focused on using "main-force punches" to overextend the allies throughout South Vietnam while preparing for follow-up political agitation and local force activity. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] cadres in MR-3 were 25X1
told that the "city struggle" would come after control of the countryside had been assured.

A series of documents captured recently in the western highlands paints an even more specific picture of a phased buildup of main-force pressure, followed by a growth in political agitation and terrorism. There is a clear suggestion in the documents that the Communists intend to use main forces to establish territorial control in Kontum and Pleiku provinces by the end of the year. The scale of their attacks in northern South Vietnam suggests that they are following the same strategy in that area.

Such heavy reliance on main-force strength is a distinct departure from traditional Communist strategy and tactics. Moreover, the indications that regular enemy units may try to seize and hold certain stretches of territory conflict with the orthodox Communist line that territorial control must come through a people's revolution. Hanoi may have decided that North Vietnamese forces, fighting a purely conventional war with territorial control or siege of urban areas as occasional objectives, must play a bigger role from now on.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol told Ambassador Swank yesterday that a new constitution providing for a strong executive will be submitted to a limited referendum about 20 April. Lon Nol intends to hold presidential elections in late May, after which a new government will be formed. He was evasive on whether a vice president would be elected, and said that legislative elections may take place in mid-summer.

There is already a report that the timing has slipped, but student leaders evidently have accepted Lon Nol's several promises and have suspended their strike. With Sirik Matak, their bete noir, out of the government and with Lon Nol committed to a new constitution, they can claim a significant, if limited, victory.

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

USSR

25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

(continued)

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

NOTE

Romania-Egypt: Presidents Ceausescu and Sadat talked past one another during an exchange of toasts in Cairo on Sunday, holding to their disparate views on the Middle East. By stressing the "integrity and sovereignty of all states," which by implication includes Israel, Ceausescu showed an unwillingness to curry favor with his Arab host. In his reply, Sadat scarcely mentioned Romania, referred flatteringly to the USSR as the "leader of the socialist states," and dwelt almost entirely on Egypt's view of the Middle East situation. Nevertheless, simply by being received in Cairo after a long tour of Africa, Ceausescu succeeded in underlining Romania's independent stance.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

ANNEX

CHINA

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

A2

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5

Top Secret

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010600040001-5